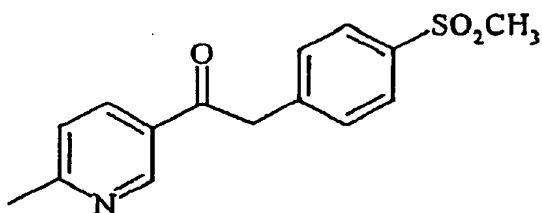


Abstract

A four-step process for preparing 1-(6-methylpyridin-3-yl)-2-[(4-(methylsulphonyl)phenyl)]-ethanone of the formula



starting from 2-methyl-5-ethylpyridine is described. 1-(6-methylpyridin-3-yl)-2-[(4-(methylsulphonyl)-phenyl)]ethanone is an intermediate for preparing COX-2 inhibitors.

Basel, January 13, 2000
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